

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-22, 25, 26 and 32-35 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 23, 24 and 27-31 have been canceled by this amendment.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claim 31 for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. As noted above, claim 31 has been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering the objection moot.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claims 22 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 22 in a manner to overcome this rejection, and have canceled claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 24 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jardin (U.S. 6,671,810). As noted above, claims 24 and 27-30 have been canceled by this amendment, thereby rendering the above-noted rejection moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-21 and 32-35 are allowed, and for indicating that claims 23, 25 and 26 contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment, Applicants note that claims 25 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance, and that claim 23 has been canceled.

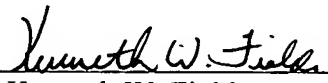
Regarding allowable claims 1, 2, 13, 32, Applicants note that a minor typographical error has been corrected in each of these claims by replacing the phrase "encryption/decryption" with the phrase --encryption/decryption--.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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